

HEADQUARTERS 200 Myrtle Street, New Britain CT 06053 Telephone (860) 229-7700 Fax (860) 229-6847 www.cyresources.org

Appropriations Committee Public Budget Hearing -February 20, 2009

H.B. No. 6365 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2011 AND MAKING APPROPIATIONS THEREFOR

Good afternoon members of the Appropriation Committee. My name is Ronald Buccilli and I am the President/CEO of CW Resources, Inc.(CW) and a long time member of CCPA.

CW contracts with the DDS, DMHAS, BRS, BESB, DSS and Workers' Rehabilitation for the provision of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and for persons who are economically disadvantaged. We also provide over 4,000 café and meals-on-wheels per day to our senior residents. CW, headquartered in New Britain, has active Centers in Bristol, Gales Ferry, Groton, Naugatuck, New Britain, New London, Norwich, Waterbury, West Hartford and Hartford. Moreover, we subcontract with eighteen other Connecticut agencies for client direct labor employment within our many state and federal contracts. In total, CW serves 900 persons with disabilities and 4,000 seniors each year.

Connecticut's Employment and Community Resource Since 1964

2-20-09 Appropriations Committee Public hearing Ronald Buccilli

Permit me to offer some additional statistics.

Norwich and West Hartford.

CW provides our clients with more than 850,000 labor hours/year

CW pays out more than \$6,000,000 in client wages/year

CW pays out more than \$10,300,000 in staff salaries and benefits/yr.

CW has, on average, 110 vehicles on the road each day

CW leases buildings in Bristol, Groton, Naugatuck, New Britain

CW contracts with over 30 Connecticut Small Businesses for contract supplies.

As you can, CW is more than a human service provider – we are also a business contributing to the commercial health of the various communities where CW has business activities.

I come before you today to respectfully ask that you see CW and all our sister agencies not only as qualified providers of services to persons with disabilities and who do so more cost effectively than other larger institutions can, but also as community-based businesses who provide employment, who purchase commodities and services from local businesses and whose

client and staff payrolls reinvest tax dollars back into the local economy.

2-20-09 Appropriation Committee Ronald Buccilli

In summary, we effectively meet a service demand which, in turn, creates jobs and stimulates the local economy.

And, like any viable human service business, CW needs sufficient revenue to maintain its viability, to meet payroll and it's other payables.

Additionally, CW needs to retain a line of credit, which pays vans, facilities and helps meet staff payroll necessary to serve our consumers.

Consequently, CW needs to at least annually break even in order for our bank to agree to the line of credit. Going successive years with zero increase in funding from the State significantly hurts CW's ability to meet our client, our community and our financial obligations. A cut in revenues will present greater difficulties.

Currently, CW is working to try and keep our Bristol and Naugatuck buildings open. We pay our local landlords over \$200,000/yr. in lease and in real estate taxes. Without increase in revenues, and certainly with additional cuts, we would be forced to leave and transfer clients to our other sites. Inevitably, some clients will not be able to go elsewhere.

2-20-09 Appropriations Committee Ronald Buccilli

CW stands ready to do what is necessary in order to continue to provide services for persons with disabilities, who are economically challenged and for our seniors. But, we will soon need additional revenues. And, we can not absorb additional cuts — for even a zero increase is a cut given the rising cost of living.

Thank you.